

UUM alumni urges Kedah govt to give rebate on quit rent

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SINTOK: The 80,000-strong Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) alumni has joined the chorus of appeal to the Pas-led state government for a rebate on the university's RM1.743 million quit rent.

Alumni president Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azizan Abdul Razak should not treat UUM as a business entity and should emulate the previous Barisan Nasional state government in giving a rebate on UUM's quit rent.

"This is a social obligation for Azizan and the Pas-led state government.

"Don't turn UUM into a business entity because it is not out to make profit but to produce graduates in various fields," he said here yesterday.

He said UUM deserved the rebate and discounts since it had brought about many economic activities and benefits to the people and the state.

"By our estimates, the 30,000-odd UUM undergraduates, lecturers and staff spend about RM300,000 daily on food, services and other activities.

"This is one of UUM's many contributions to the state and Azizan should consider that the university is helping the local business community and his state government," he said, describing UUM as a major growth centre for many towns in the Kubang Pasu district.



UUM alumni president Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim says the university has contributed much to Kedah's economy

Under the BN state government, UUM only paid RM100,000 in quit rent annually.

Shahidan said he would meet Azizan next week to discuss the matter.

Meanwhile, Azizan has said that he would review UUM's appeal for a rebate after he received a letter from the Higher Education Ministry.

He had insisted that the ministry formally write to him on the matter.